

1
2
3
4
5 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
6 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

7 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

2:08-CV-332 JCM (GWF)

8 Plaintiff,

9 v.

10 DWIGHT RAMON POLLARD,

11 Defendant.
12
13

14 **ORDER**

15 Presently before the court is defendant Ganiu Adisa Kosoko's two emergency motions.
16 (Docs. # 446-47). The first emergency motion seeks a status check and the second emergency
17 motion is for bail. (Docs. # 446-47).

18 **I Procedural History**

19 Defendant was arrested pursuant to a superseding indictment filed on July 28, 2009. (Doc.
20 # 22). The indictment charged defendant in counts 1-10 with bank fraud, aggravated identity theft,
21 and conspiracy. (*Id.*). The government filed a second subsequent indictment (doc. # 55) on August
22 25, 2009, which did not affect any of the charges against defendant.

23 On March 8, 2010, the court, in an "Order of Detention," found that "there [was] a serious
24 risk that the defendant will not appear" at later proceedings. (Doc. # 112). The court then granted
25 a hearing on the revocation of pretrial release on March 25, 2010. The court revoked defendant's
26 pretrial release because defendant violated certain conditions of his pretrial release. (Doc. # 119).
27 Specifically, the court made the following factual findings at the hearing regarding the revocation
28

1 of pretrial release: (1) the defendant was far more noncompliant than originally appeared”; (2) “there
 2 is probable cause to believe that the defendant attempted to suborn perjury during his State Court
 3 trial, and therefore, obstruct justice”; and, (3) “the defendant was not entirely candid with this Court
 4 in his attempt to explain his curfew violations.” (Minutes of court from revocation hearing, Doc.
 5 # 119).

6 Subsequent to the revocation of pretrial release and prior to trial, the defendant filed at least
 7 thirty-four motions. (*See generally* docs. 142-270). The bulk of the motions were filed pro se and
 8 included motions such as “Motion to Order Standby Counsel to Accept Collect Calls from Defendant
 9 Every Day of Work Week.” (Doc. # 184). Defendant elected to go to trial, and the trial lasted five
 10 days. (*See* docs. # 294-99). The jury found defendant “guilty on all ten counts of the indictment.”
 11 (Minutes of proceedings from day 5 of trial, Doc. # 299).

12 Between the return of the guilty verdict and sentencing, defendant filed an additional seven
 13 motions. (*See generally* docs. # 306-391). The court sentenced defendant to a total of 175 months.
 14 (Doc. # 420). The defendant has been active in his appeal of the conviction and sentence. (*See*
 15 *generally* docs. # 423-48). After the Ninth Circuit accepted defendant’s notice of appeal, an appeal
 16 that defendant has as a matter of right, defendant filed the instant emergency motions.

17 **II. Legal Standards and Discussion**

18 **A. Rules of Appellate Procedure**

19 Defendant may appeal his conviction and sentencing as a matter of right. FED. R. APP. P. 3,
 20 Appeal as of Right—How Taken. The Ninth Circuit acceptance of defendant’s notice of appeal and
 21 setting a briefing schedule, standing alone, does not entitle defendant to any special relief. The
 22 defendant is only exercising a right that has no further significance under these facts.

23 **B. Bail Reform Act**

24 Under the Bail Reform Act of 1984, a district court can order the continuation of bail
 25 conditions for a defendant who has already been sentenced if the court finds by clear and convincing
 26 evidence:
 27
 28

1 (A) That the person is not likely to flee or pose a danger to the safety
2 of another person or the community; and

3 (B) That the purpose of the appeal is not for the purpose of delay and
4 raises a substantial question of law or fact likely to result in:

- 5 i. reversal,
- 6 ii. an order for a new trial,
- 7 iii. a sentence that does not include a term of
8 imprisonment, or
- 9 iv. a reduced sentence to a term of imprisonment less
10 than the total of the time already served plus the
11 expected duration of the appeal process.

12 18 U.S.C. § 3143(b)(1)(A) and (B). Congress has enacted § 3143(b)(1) to overrule, legislatively,
13 decisions applying too lenient a standard for allowing release pending appeal and to create a
14 presumption against post-conviction release. S. Rep. No. 225, 98th Cong., 2d Sess. 26-27. “Clear
15 and convincing evidence” is a standard greater than “preponderance of the evidence” but lesser than
16 “beyond a reasonable doubt.” *United States v. Chimurenga*, 760 F.3d 400 (2d Cir. 1985). The Ninth
17 Circuit has explained that “the word ‘substantial’ defines the level of merit required in the question
18 raised on appeal, while the phrase ‘likely to result in reversal’ defines the type of question that must
19 be presented.” *United States v. Handy*, 761 F.2d 1279, 1281 (9th Cir. 1985). A substantial question
20 is “fairly debatable” or “fairly doubtful” or “poses issues debatable among jurists of reason.” *Id.* at
21 1281-83.

22 First, the court already found it necessary to revoke defendant’s pretrial release. *See supra*
23 section I. The defendant has offered no reasons or arguments why his status should change
24 following a conviction via a trial by jury. Again, the Ninth Circuit permitting defendant to appeal
25 his conviction, an appeal defendant has as a matter of right, affords him no special relief under these
26 facts.

27 Second, the defendant has not articulated any argument in his motion that would raise a
28 substantial question of law or fact on appeal. The fact that the Ninth Circuit granted an appeal the
defendant has as a matter of right does not in and of itself that the appeal could lead to any of the

1 results listed in § 3143(b)(1)(B)(i)-(iv). The court finds that defendant has raised no substantial
2 question in law or fact that would warrant bail until a resolution on appeal. In defendant's motions,
3 defendant raises no questions or arguments for appeal at all. (*See* docs. # 446-47).

4 Finally, the defendant requests to be placed in a safe house. However, defendant was
5 convicted by a jury on ten counts in the indictment and then committed to the Bureau of Prisons to
6 serve a term of imprisonment of 175 months. (Docs. # 299 & 420). The Ninth's Circuit acceptance
7 of appeal does not warrant a change in defendant's custody status.

8 Accordingly,

9 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that defendant's emergency
10 motion for status (doc. # 446) be, and the same hereby is, DENIED.

11 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that defendant's emergency
12 motion for bond (doc. # 447) be, and the same hereby is, DENIED.

13 DATED September 20, 2012.

14
15 
16 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**